

# **APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM OREGON HOUSE DELEGATION FISCAL YEAR 2010**

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2009**

***PLEASE NOTE: As required by the House Appropriations Committee, all requests will be made public on the requesting Member's website.***

**1. Project Title:**

**Lower Columbia River Environment and Economic Project**

**2. Organization Name and address:**

Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership  
811 SW Naito Parkway, Suite 410  
Portland, Oregon 97204

Funds are used in Washington and Oregon along the lower 146 miles of the Columbia River, an area that covers approximately 5,900 square miles from Bonneville Dam to the Pacific Ocean. The Estuary Partnership works in 31 municipalities, 32 school districts and 11 counties. Washington Counties include: Clark, Skamania, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, and Pacific. Washington Cities include: Camas, Washougal, Vancouver, Ridgefield, Kalama, Kelso, Longview, Cathlamet, Skamokawa, and Ilwaco. Oregon Counties include: Multnomah; Clackamas, Washington, Yamhill, Columbia and Clatsop. Oregon Cities include: Portland, Gresham, Troutdale, Beaverton, Corbett, Scappoose, St. Helens, Columbia City, Rainier, Clatskanie, Knappa, Warrenton, and Astoria.

**3. Primary Contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number and email:**

Contact: Debrah Marriott  
Executive Director  
Phone: 503.226.1565 x227  
Fax: 503.226.1580  
Email: Marriott@lcrep.org

**4. Project Location Address (if different from Organization):**

**5. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities, and whether it is a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity:**

The Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership is a non-profit working across political boundaries in Clatsop, Columbia, and Multnomah counties in Oregon and across state borders with Wahkiakum, Pacific and Clark counties in Washington. We work with public and private citizens and stakeholders to restore thousands of acres of habitat, monitor water quality, fish tissue and sediment to expand reduction of toxic contaminants and to provide over 94,000 students hands-on learning experiences while helping 1,186 teachers meet state benchmarks. We provide current science to citizens: recent monitoring by the Estuary Partnership found contaminants in water, fish and sediment are causing hormonal changes that inhibit fish survival and accumulate up the food chain.

***The Estuary Partnership Goals Are:***

**Protect the ecosystem and species** - restore 16,000 acres of wetlands and habitat by 2010 and promote improvements in stormwater management.

**Reduce toxic and conventional pollution** - conduct long term monitoring and advocate to eliminate persistent bioaccumulative toxics, improve water quality, reduce hydrocarbon and heavy metal discharges, and reduce bacterial contamination.

**Provide information about the river to a range of audiences** - compile, evaluate, and publish data, offer natural science education programs for children, and build public and private partnerships.

Since 2000, the Estuary Partnership has:

- Restored 2,600 acres of habitat, opened 41.7 miles of stream habitat at 41 project sites and by leveraging an additional \$10 million NEP dollars worked with 85 partners to provide a total of 13,000 acres of restored habitat.
- Raised more than \$1.5 million through private and public sources for our Education and Stewardship Programs resulting in
  - 9,303 citizens planting over 27,000 native plants, and removing 160 truckloads of invasive species at 26 sites.
  - 94,777 students receiving applied learning experiences through our education programs.
- Raised \$4 million to complete toxic and conventional pollutant water quality monitoring, and to analyze suspended sediment and juvenile salmonid samples for PAHs, PCBs, pharmaceuticals, flame retardants (PBDEs), current- use pesticides. Results found that banned contaminants, including DDEs and PCBs, and current-use contaminants, such as mercury and flame retardants, are present in sediment and fish. Also found were other in-use and emerging contaminants that are lethal or impact the growth, reproduction and immune systems of aquatic organisms. These include many types of pesticides, petroleum hydrocarbons (PAHs), personal care products and pharmaceuticals.
- Raised \$200,000 to provide stormwater management assistance to help two communities meet federal Phase II stormwater requirements.
- Raised \$173,000 to complete a NOAA Recovery Module for threatened and endangered salmonid species;
- Convened regional expertise and conducted shoreline studies to complete a regional prioritization strategy for habitat restoration so money goes on the ground in the smartest places;
- Developed a 146 mile water trail and its companion website that provides information on launch and landing sites, camp sites, safety, tides, the shipping channel, and leave-no-trace trail use.
- Hosted over a dozen workshops and forums with community leaders and scientists to convey current data and to link science to policy on topics such as toxic reduction actions.
- Developed and maintain a website showcasing local water-quality friendly development and giving technical information and local resources.
- Published several technical guides and community information pieces, including report on water quality status, health report on the lower river and estuary, case studies and lessons learned in habitat restoration, and education materials for children.
- Developed and published a broad selection of scientific reports, public awareness pieces, and student targeted products that convey important lower Columbia River information to a broad range of audiences. Examples include: Habitat Restoration Case Studies, State of the Estuary Report, the Lower

## Columbia River and Estuary Ecosystem Monitoring: Water Quality and Salmon Sampling Report.

The Lower Columbia River Estuary is one of 28 estuaries in the nation designated an “Estuary of National Significance”. The National Estuary Program (NEP) was authorized in 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act and is administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The NEP’s purpose is to protect nationally significant estuaries that have been degraded by human activity. The Estuary Partnership brings together diverse parties to identify problems, define actions to address the problems, set regional strategies and **implement the actions**. The Estuary Partnership is a 501(c)(3) non profit corporation; its Board of Directors includes representatives from diverse interests and geography in Oregon and Washington. Since completing our Management Plan for the Lower Columbia River in 1999, we have been restoring habitat, monitoring water and sediment and providing education.

### **6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)**

The Estuary Partnership’s comprehensive environmental economic projects will restore habitat and reduce toxics in water, sediment, wildlife and fish along the lower 146 miles of the Columbia.

Funds will go to lower river communities and consumers, components are shovel ready and include:

- Host pesticide collection sites to reduce toxics.
- Build bridges, remove tidegates, replace culverts, plant trees to restore 600 – 1,000 acres of habitat, specifically for threatened and endangered species.
- Provide consumer information about personal care product ingredients that do not disrupt hormone balance in fish.
- Institute “take back” projects for unused pharmaceuticals that alter hormone balance
- Finish a regional sediment management plan to direct dredge material disposal.
- Complete feasibility study upland disposal for site to accept contaminated dredge materials from ports.
- Give technical assistance to local entities providing civic, hydrologic and structural engineering, site design and contractor services for restoration projects
- Establish a monitoring network that institutes one-time work to identify extent and distribution of toxics (pesticides, metals, PCBs, PAHs, PBDEs, dioxins/furans, estrogenic compounds, pharmaceuticals) in water, sediment, and fish and collect land cover and bathymetric data for shipping and land development needs. Assess trends impacting public and ecosystem health, fill data gaps, identify areas of toxics accumulation and sources of contaminants, target reduction projects for greatest impact, and evaluate effectiveness of projects over time. **No sustained monitoring exists; sources of contaminants are unknown.**

### **Measurement and Evaluation**

The Estuary Partnership tracks results with numerous databases to ensure we are meeting our program goals and our environmental goals

- Data collected and analyzed will be provided in report form and consumer formats.
- Toxics “take back” collection will be measured by the number of collection sites and opportunities and volume of pollutants collected.
- Consumer education will be assessed by the materials produced and the distribution. If financially feasible, the Estuary Partnership will begin tracking consumer purchase options based on provided information.
- The deliverable for the feasibility study will be construction ready plans and secured permits.

- Habitat project results will be measured by number of projects completed, acres restored or stream miles opened for fish access. We also employ effectiveness monitoring at sample habitat restoration projects to ensure that projects are gaining the desired improvements.
- Technical assistance to local entities will be measured by the number of requests, the quality of the designed projects and implementation on the ground.
- Data sets will be delivered in hard copy and in GIS readable formats for scientists, project managers, regional governments, and citizens, including teachers.

The Estuary Partnership tracks all project implementation and provides regular reports to funding sources, including EPA and Congress and the general public. We track six indicators (habitat restoration/loss, changes in pollutant levels, status of endangered species, land cover, children served and citizens involved), collecting the data and reporting every five years on the health of the lower river.

**7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?**

No

**7a. If yes, please provide fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.**

**8. Federal agency and account from which funds are requested (Please be specific –e.g. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account):**

The EPA Regional Geographic Initiatives program is authorized; the Columbia River is the only one of the seven Great Water Bodies (Large Aquatic Ecosystems) to not receive an appropriation.

EPA not been able to provide the account or law number.

Account: US Environmental Protection Agency, Environmental Programs and Management, Geographic Initiatives Program.

**9. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

The Estuary Partnership's comprehensive environmental economic projects will restore habitat and reduce toxics in water, sediment, wildlife and fish along the lower 146 miles of the Columbia.

***100% of all the funds received are spent in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington for environmental improvements and investments in infrastructure.***

The Estuary Partnership expends this money for environmental improvements and investments in infrastructure. For example: construction design contractors, engineers, biologists, hydrologists, builders and support workers restore these acres of habitat, technicians monitor and analyze data, and educators provide these programs to students. Local watershed councils and conservation groups receive our habitat dollars. These are salaries and jobs to support the people of southwest Washington and northwest Oregon. The restored acres will advance recovery of the commercial fishing industry and the upland disposal site will allow lower river ports to continue dredging and to stay operational and the economic drivers of their communities.

The Estuary Partnership has brought in an additional \$21,000,000 to communities and organizations in southwest Washington and northwest Oregon as a result of Congress's investment in our programs. In the coming year, the Estuary Partnership will focus on more restoration, more students in outdoor programs, educating consumers about harmful ingredients in personal care products and the proper disposal of pesticides and pharmaceuticals.

## **Columbia River Status**

In September 2006, EPA elevated the Columbia River Basin to one the Nation's seven Great Water Bodies, joining the Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico, South Florida Ecosystem, Long Island Sound and Puget Sound as a national priority in EPA's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan. The plan directs EPA to demonstrate a 10% reduction in mean concentration of contaminants of concern found in water and fish tissue. EPA is working with state and tribal entities as well as the Estuary Partnership to identify toxics reduction actions to meet this goal.

**The Columbia Basin is the only Great Water Body to receive no appropriations in FY07, FY08 or FY09, though EPA identified all great water bodies (now called Large Aquatic Ecosystems by EPA) as a national priorities in the 2006-2011 Strategic Plan. Appropriations for other Great Water Bodies range from \$5,000,000 (Long Island Sound) to \$20,000,000 (Puget Sound) to \$31,000,000 (Chesapeake Bay).**

This request will achieve EPA's targets for toxics reduction and habitat restoration. It fully supports the West Coast Governors' Oceans Agreement. It implements actions in the 2008 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion, actions in the draft NOAA Recovery Module and Salmon Recovery plans in both Washington and Oregon. Among other things, these funds are used for specific on-the-ground activities for habitat restoration that will work to achieve recovery of threatened and endangered salmon. Oregon and Washington invest heavily in the Willamette River Basin and Puget Sound. The Columbia does not share that level of financial support.

The Columbia River has compelling environmental, cultural and historic significance. Over 2,000,000 people live in the region, and all depend on it to some degree for their livelihood, sustenance, transportation of goods, and overall quality of life. We have lost over 50% of habitat since settlement. The loss of fish has had a decimating effect on our commercial fishing industry. It is home to 13 threatened and endangered salmonid species and hundreds of other wildlife. Toxic contaminants are in the fish, sediment and water. The river continues to be a nationally important shipping and transportation corridor. The river's five deep water ports are the nation's primary terminals for several importers of manufactured of vehicles and the major depot for the export of the nation's grain. Several lower river ports (notably Astoria) no longer have disposal options for dredge material, threatening their ability to operate.

The projects this funding would implement are costly; they are big and beyond the ability of small competitive funds to address; the problems they address are the accumulation of many, many activities by many sectors for decades.

### **10. Have you requested funding for this project from other Members of Congress? If so, who?**

The Estuary Partnership will make this request to all Members of our Delegation.

### **11. Funding Details:**

#### **a. Total project cost (all funding sources and all years):**

Total cost is projected to be approximately \$11,175,000 per year for a minimum of six years. We have a projected cm for commitment of \$3,475,000 for restoration and monitoring.

#### **b. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2010:**

\$7.7 million

**c. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please provide specific dollar amount or percentage.)**

The Estuary Partnership uses federal funds to leverage significant additional funds. This includes funds from BPA for habitat restoration and monitoring; from the EPA Watershed Initiative for habitat restoration; from the USACE for restoration projects; and from NOAA Fisheries for multi-species restoration.

For FY10, the Estuary Partnership has already projected cash commitments of:

- \$300,000 from the States of Oregon and Washington;
- \$200,000 from NOAA for restoration;
- \$3.475 million from BPA for habitat restoration and monitoring;
- \$1,000,000 USACE for habitat restoration; and
- \$750,000 from recipients of Estuary Partnership restoration funds.

We project to receive at least \$150,000 in FY10 from corporate and individual donations and \$100,000 in private foundation support. We will continue to work to secure additional competitive grants from regional, state, federal and private foundations. In-kind contributions are projected to be valued at approximately \$340,000 for the year. This is consistent with recent years and represents 10,000 hours of citizen hours removing invasive species and planting native vegetation; 2,000 hours of parent volunteer with outdoor applied learning projects for students and professional services donated to our schoolyard stormwater projects.

**d. Do you expect to request federal funding in future years for this project?**

We expect to make similar requests for approximately six years.

**e. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project in FY 2010. (e.g. salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):**

**Toxics Reduction. \$3,855,000** each year for the next six years is needed to **fill gaps in data and fund on-the-ground reduction actions**. This will institute critical aspects of previous one-time work to provide information on the extent and distribution of toxics including pesticides, metals, PCBs, PAHs, PBDEs, dioxins/furans, estrogenic compounds, pharmaceuticals and personal care products. It will give data over time to assess trends impacting public health and ecosystem health, it will identify areas where toxics are accumulating, identify sources of contaminants, and evaluate effectiveness of toxics reduction projects over time. In addition to this need, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is projecting an annual commitment of \$975,000 per year through 2017 for monitoring. USGS has stepped up its commitment on the Columbia with increased funding to assess impact of toxics accumulation up the food chain.

**Goals and Results.** The day the funds are available, we will:

- **Collect and analyze data at 29 sites, collecting samples from water, sediment, salmon, river mammals, and birds to get a comprehensive picture of contaminant sources and patterns: \$2,410,000.** Over 130 emerging contaminants (such as estrogen compounds and personal care products); approximately 50 commonly used insecticides, herbicides and fungicides; over 130 moderately used pesticides; nearly 20 trace elements (including mercury, copper, and lead); and PCBs, PAHs, and flame retardants will be measured. This includes contaminants

that cause growth, behavior, and reproductive abnormalities in salmon, river mammals, ospreys, and potentially humans.

- **Host the pesticide “take back” projects in lower river communities: \$32,000.** One recent pesticide take back site at The Dalles collected over 17,000 pounds of DDT stored in barns and garages. No collection sites have been held in lower river communities, yet these contaminants were used here.
- **Implement consumer education: \$230,000.** Certain ingredients in personal care products cause hormone disruption in fish; providing consumers with information can help keep some of these contaminants out of the system.
- **Complete a regional sediment management plan: \$300,000.** Will aid disposal of contaminated sediment.
- **Complete a feasibility study for an upland disposal site to accept contaminated dredge materials from lower river ports to keep them operational: \$425,000.** Contaminated sediments have accumulated at these downriver ports; without dredge disposal options, these sediments limit port activities and significantly hamper the local economy.
- **Institute “take back or mail back” programs for unused pharmaceuticals; they alter hormone balance, unused portions should not be flushed into water systems.**
- **Administration: \$170,000. (4.4% of total)**

**Habitat Restoration.** \$3,845,000 will complete critical habitat restoration projects, provide technical assistance to local governments, and acquire, analyze and distribute key data sets. In addition to this need, BPA is projecting an annual commitment of \$2,500,000 per year through 2017 for restoration. Small local governments, watershed councils, conservation districts, economic development entities and other organizations need:

- **Funding for habitat restoration projects: \$2,170,000.** This funding will increase the number and quality of restoration projects. Getting more projects, larger projects, and more complex projects on the ground will speed up the process of ecosystem and species recovery, employ local contractors in restoration work, and implement key actions in the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion and other key restoration plans, helping to restore the fish population has significant economic benefits to the region.
- **Greater access to the engineering, geotechnical, soils, hydrology, and other technical skills required to scope, design, and build large, complex restoration projects: \$415,000.** These funds will hire local engineers and others to provide these services to organizations who could otherwise not afford them. By bundling the technical assistance and managing it for local entities and habitat restoration partners, the Estuary Partnership is able to provide consultants with paying work and restoration practitioners with the technical expertise they would otherwise be unable to afford. This provides economic development opportunities and improves the quantity, quality and size of habitat restoration projects in the lower Columbia River that will benefit threatened and endangered salmonids.
- **Key data sets: \$580,000 land cover and \$485,000 shallow water bathymetry.** The Estuary Partnership will hire contractors to collect and analyze remotely sensed land cover data and shallow water bathymetry mapping. These data are necessary to comprehensively plan and ensure development and restoration and will help all entities involved along the lower Columbia River understand the river's sediment and hydrologic processes and surrounding land uses. This will assist:
  - local governments in siting development
  - habitat restoration project implementers
  - EPA with TMDL water quality models and help USGS track pollutant loads

- land use planners, land developers, regulators and managers to make more environmentally informed decisions. With better data, land development options can be more targeted, reducing costs to developers and buyers
- the US Army Corps of Engineers and local ports.
- commercial fishers
- the recreational boating and fishing industries
- **Conservation Development: \$195,000.** This will assist local governments, economic development entities, conservation districts, local businesses and other constituents define shovel ready actions to meet ESA recovery requirements and local economic development needs with 'green' solutions.
- **Administration: \$170,000 (4.4% of total request)**

***100% of funds are spent in Oregon and Washington***

**f. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project:**

**Public Entities Partnering with the Estuary Partnership:**

- ◆ EPA, NOAA, USGS, USFWS, Army Corps of Engineers, State of Oregon, State of Washington, OR and WA Fish and Wildlife Departments, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, OR and WA Parks Department, WA Department of Ecology, OR Department of Environmental Quality, METRO regional government, Bonneville Power Administration, Northwest Power and Conservation Council
- ◆ 31 municipalities in our study area, including Camas, Portland, Vancouver, Longview, Astoria, Ilwaco

**Other Partners:**

- ◆ Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- ◆ 14 local watershed councils
- ◆ Ports
- ◆ Lower Columbia Solutions Group
- ◆ Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
- ◆ 55 private corporations and individual citizens, 1,186 teachers
- ◆ Sierra Club, Joes Foundation, Hanna Andersson Children's Foundation, REI Foundation, New Belgium Brewing Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, Miller Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Columbia Land Trust, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, Georgia Pacific Foundation, Tillamook Estuary Partnership, Ash Creek Forest Management, Ducks Unlimited, Wetlands Reserve Program, The Wetlands Conservancy, Battelle Marine Science Laboratory/Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Parametrix, Willamette Riverkeepers
- ◆ University of Washington, Portland State University

**g. Is this project scalable? (i.e. if partial funding is awarded, will the organization be able to use the funds in FY 2010?):**

Yes, we have prepared this package with individual components.

Please return this form no later than February 13, 2009 (via email) to:  
[appropriations.blumenauer@mail.house.gov](mailto:appropriations.blumenauer@mail.house.gov)